

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the current Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

--An optical connection adapter (100) for use in splicing optical fibers (300) is disclosed. The adapter (100) ~~comprises~~ includes a holding assembly (110) and two shutter members (160). The holding assembly (100) has a passage way (136) for positioning and holding each pair of optical fibers (300) upon the splicing. The passage way (136) extends between end portions (112) of the holding assembly and is positioned at a predetermined position in a Z-direction. Each of the shutter members (160) has a flat shutter plate (161) formed with a slit (162) and is movably fitted to one of the end portions (112) of the holding assembly (110). The flat shutter plate (161) is movable between first and second positions in the Z-direction, wherein the first position is a position where the passage way (163) is blocked off by the flat shutter plate (161), while the second position is a position where the passage way (136) is opened through the slit (162) ~~as seen~~ from the Y-direction. The flat shutter plate (161) is urged to be positioned at the first position by a plate spring portion (165). When an optical fiber connector (200) is mated with the adapter (100), the flat shutter plate (161) is lifted up and is positioned at the second position so that the passage way (136) can receive an optical fiber (300).--